

T O P S E C R E T

EL SALVADORMILITARY SITUATION

The war in El Salvador continues to drag on indecisively and a dramatic shift in favor of the armed forces is remote. In the event of a steady economic deterioration or a series of spectacular guerrilla actions, there is some chance that the momentum could shift decisively against the government.

The guerrillas appear to have increased their force beyond the 4,000-man level existing during the January offensive. The armed forces of El Salvador have approximately 24,000 men in uniform.

(NIE 82/83-81 [REDACTED] 9 September 1981)

25X1

GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

25X1

Insurgent groups - despite the split in the revolutionary alliance - have tentatively agreed to launch countrywide attacks soon to gain additional international recognition. Continuing arms and munitions shortages - underscored by appeals to guerrilla headquarters in Managua - will hamper, but not eliminate the possibility of such operations.

The guerrilla leaders have noted improvements in government use of weapons, quality of line officers, defensive capabilities, [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] Nonetheless, they are encouraged by their perception of low morale among government troops and related problems such as poorly planned and executed operations. (Central America Report - 14 September 1981)

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Army - in close coordination with the Air Force [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] - has expanded sweep operations in southwestern Usulután Department along the Lempa River.

-- The Air Force apparently has been effective in bombing and strafing island bases on the Lempa, while Army troops have dismantled several large insurgent camps. (Central America Report - 14 September 1981)

SUMMARY

Although a split of the revolutionary alliance was reported earlier, more recent information reveals a tentative agreement between the Farabundo Martí Popular Liberation Forces and other leftist groups to work together in the military campaign against the Salvadoran government.

25X1

25X1

[REDACTED] 16X1
adequately supplied and coordinated, such operations represent a serious threat to the government in the short term.

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